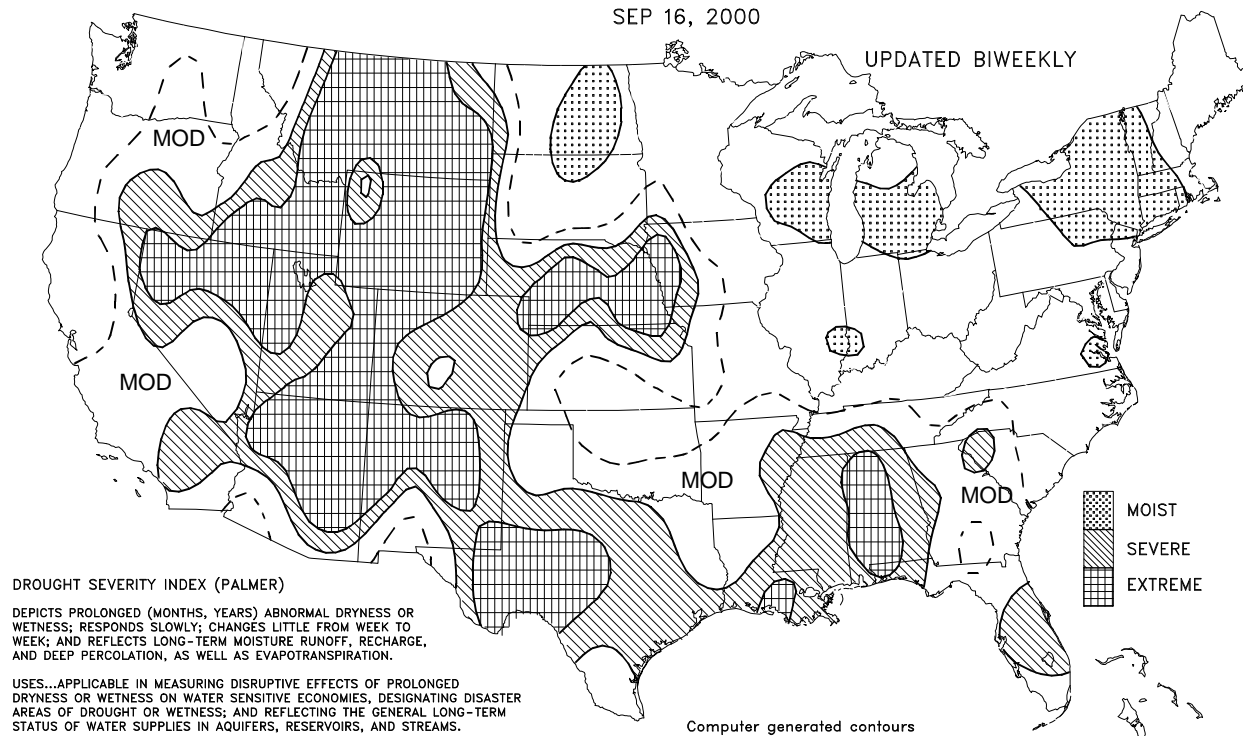


DROUGHT SEVERITY

LONG TERM PALMER

SEP 16, 2000

UPDATED BIWEEKLY



DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER)

DEPICTS PROLONGED (MONTHS, YEARS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS; RESPONDS SLOWLY; CHANGES LITTLE FROM WEEK TO WEEK; AND REFLECTS LONG-TERM MOISTURE RUNOFF, RECHARGE, AND DEEP PERCOLATION, AS WELL AS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.

USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSITIVE ECONOMIES, DESIGNATING DISASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS; AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL LONG-TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS, RESERVOIRS, AND STREAMS.

LIMITATIONS...IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF SHORT-TERM (FEW WEEKS) STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).

Computer generated contours

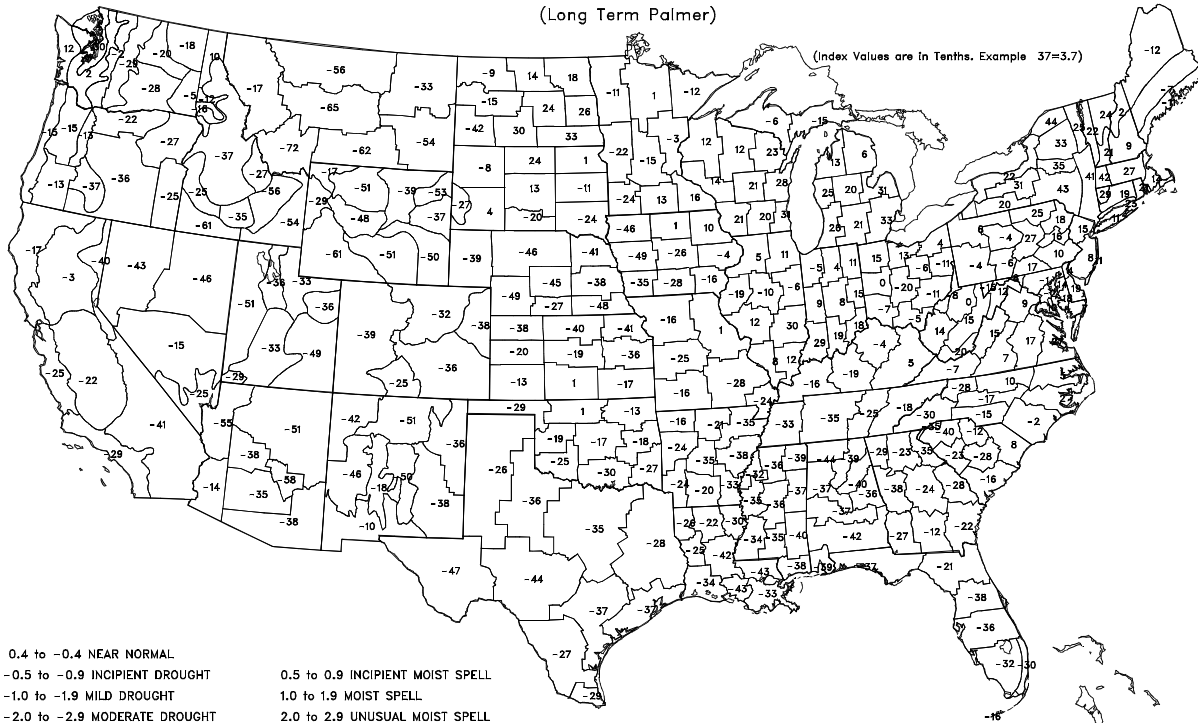
Based on preliminary reports

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

Drought Severity Index by Division

SEP 16, 2000

(Long Term Palmer)



0.4 to -0.4 NEAR NORMAL

-0.5 to -0.9 INCIPIENT DROUGHT

-1.0 to -1.9 MILD DROUGHT

-2.0 to -2.9 MODERATE DROUGHT

-3.0 to -3.9 SEVERE DROUGHT

BELOW -4.0 EXTREME DROUGHT

0.5 to 0.9 INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL

1.0 to 1.9 MOIST SPELL

2.0 to 2.9 UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL

3.0 to 3.9 VERY MOIST SPELL

ABOVE 4.0 EXTREME MOIST SPELL

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

Based on preliminary data

Bolded values are RFC/CADB derived